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THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

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Ryan Names Austin Smythe HBC Republican Staff Director

Congressman Paul Ryan (R-WI) has named Austin Smythe to be the Republican Staff Director for the House Committee on the Budget. Mr. Smythe has more than 20 years of federal budget experience in both the executive and legislative branches.

“Austin Smythe brings an exceptional range and depth of experience to an already excellent team,” said Ryan, the Committee’s Ranking Republican. “He shares my determination to tackle the pressing fiscal challenges our nation faces – especially the crisis in government entitlement spending – and he has the skill and knowledge to help us succeed in this effort.”

Mr. Smythe joins the Budget Committee from the President’s Office of Management and Budget [OMB] where he has served as Executive Associate Director since the beginning of the Bush Administration. In this position, he played a central role in crafting the President’s annual budget submissions. During this period, he also handled internal budget and management issues in the agency; helped develop the Administration’s financial assistance package for New York following the September 11th terrorist attacks; led the budget transition team to establish the Department of Homeland Security; and oversaw the development of the Administration’s earmark database.

From 1983-1999, Mr. Smythe served on the staff of the Senate Budget Committee, under then-Chairman Pete Domenici (R-NM). As Assistant Staff Director, he played a key role in the development and implementation of the annual federal budget resolution, as well as reconciliation bills, the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, the Line Item Veto Act of 1996, the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995, and the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990.

Mr. Smythe earned his BA in Government from the University of Texas. He received his MA from the L.B.J. School of Public Affairs. He resides in Virginia with his wife and two children.

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